

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03074 151450Z

44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 OMB-01 OC-05 CCO-00 EB-07 SCS-03 SCA-01 SCCT-01

FAA-00 DOTE-00 /077 W

----- 073073

O R 141441Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3651

INFO AMCONSUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: GUERRILLAS INVEST LALIBELA

1. EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED REPORT RECEIVED 1600 HOURS LOCAL MARCH 14 THAT 400-600 GUERRILLAS, BELIEVED LED BY DEJ. BERHAN-MESKEL DESTA, INVESTING LALIBELA (LASTA); BURNED ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES AIRCRAFT; KILLED ONE AND WOUNDED ANOTHER EAL WORKER; AND, AT THIS WRITING, MOVING TOWARD CENTER OF TOWN IN DIRECTION HOTEL SEVEN OLIVES, WHERE ONE EX-PCV (DEE MCCLURG), ONE USAID OFFICER (TED MORSE), AND WIFE OF "FOSTER PARENTS" VOLAG DIRECTOR (FEINBERG) CURRENTLY LOCATED.

2. ACCORDING RELIABLE SOURCE, REGULAR EAL FLIGHT 232 TERMINATED LALIBELA APPROXIMATELY 1000 HOURS LOCAL MARCH 14 AS SCHEDULED. ON BOARD WERE ONE CAPTAIN, ONE FIRST OFFICER, ONE FLIGHT ATTENDANT, ONE CAA INSPECTOR AND TWO PASSENGERS. AIRCRAFT (DC-3) CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 03074 151450Z

CAPTURED ON LANDING. FIRING BEGAN THEREAFTER, SOURCE UNCLEAR.

CAA INSPECTOR MORTALLY WOUNDED IN SHOOTING AND FLIGHT ATTENDANT SERIOUSLY INJURED. PASSENGERS, CAPTAIN AND FIRST OFFICER UNHURT. INSURGENTS RELEASED CAPTAIN. EAL HAS BEEN TOLD THAT AIRPORT "HEAVILY DAMAGED" BUT, GIVEN NATURE LALIBELA FACILITY, MEANING OF THIS IS UNCLEAR.

3. AT APPROXIMATELY 1630 HOURS LOCAL, ADDIS UNITED TOURING COMPANY RECEIVED RADIO REPORT FROM ITS COUNTERPART IN LALIBELA THAT ETHIOPIAN PARATROOPERS ARE DROPPING ON LALIBELA AIRPORT. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT REPORT. INSURGENT FORCE STILL MOVING TOWARDS TOWN, WHICH CIVILIANS PRECIPITOUSLY EVACUATING.

4. EAL AND ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE HAVE EACH SENT CHOPPER TO LALIBELA WHICH NOT RPT NOT EXPECTED ARRIVE TONIGHT BUT WILL BE POSITIONED IN DESSIE. CHOPPERS INTENDED TO EVACUATE CASUALTIES WHICH MAY RESULT FROM FIGHTING. EAL NEEDS TO TAKE OUT INJURED FLIGHT ATTENDANT ASAP, FAILING WHICH HE MAY DIE.

5. REPORT REACHING US VIA ADDIS/LALIBELA RADIO LINK BETWEEN "DOOLEY'S TRAVELS", WHICH AGENT FOR SEVEN OLIVES HOTEL, AND ITS REP THERE STATE THAT GUERRILLAS LIKELY INTENDED CLEAN OUT HOTEL, PARTICULARLY CASH, BUT THAT HOTEL MANAGER FEELS HIS AMERICAN GUESTS UNLIKELY BE HARMED IN PROCESS. THIS WAS BEFORE WE RECEIVED WORD PARAS BEING DROPPED ON AIRPORT AND WE ASSUME AMERICANS IN QUESTION WILL JOIN OTHER CIVILIANS AND REMOVE THEMSELVES FROM SCENE OF POSSIBLY INCIPIENT CLASH.

6. TWO ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE JETS REPORTED CIRCLING AREA BUT LANDING STRIP SUCH THAT BURNED OUT DC-3 MAY PRECLUDE ITS USE BY ANYTHING OTHER THAN ROTARY-WING AIRCRAFT UNTIL WRECK IS REMOVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, AIRCRAFT, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS03074
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750091-0611
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750352/aaaabucw.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUERRILLAS INVEST LALIBELA
TAGS: PINS, ET, ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006